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OFFICIAL ON NUCLEAR, HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS

PY201155 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 19 Mar 85 p 13

[Text] Jorge Lapena, energy planning under secretary, has reported that the Corpus hydroelectric dam project will not be considered for the remainder of this century, because our partner in this project would only have to "rent" the river for the construction of the project, while Argentina will have to shoulder the entire financial burden, including the work corresponding to the Paraguay River banks.

Lapena added that the economic efforts which are being made in the energy sector seek to achieve and strengthen an adequate development of the Yacyreta project, the construction of which has encountered several difficulties so far.

The energy and planning under secretary stated that the Corpus binational dam is an interesting project, but that given the current circumstances in the country, its gigantic size forces us to reject it as a feasible project for many years to come. It is not the same with the future Garabi dam, he stated, the construction of which is being studied with Brazil, and where the overall cost will be equally shouldered by the two nations.

Regarding the nuclear plan, Lapena stated that it must go on. Atucha II must be ready by 1990. The construction of three other nuclear plants, with a total of up to 1,000 megawatts, will be considered, and their construction will begin progressively over the next 15 years. Each of these future power plants will have an output of 300 megawatts and their technical and industrial features, as well as cost, will make it easier to export similar units to other Third World countries. Lapena concluded by saying that this will make it possible to take advantage of the remarkable progress which the country has attained in the nuclear field so as to reap profits and strengthen the development of this industrial sector in which Argentina has attained special dynamism.

NUCLEAR AFFAIRS OFFICIAL DEPARTS FOR PRC

PY212040 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1228 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Mar (EFE) -- Adolfo Zaracho, Argentine Foreign Ministry general director for nuclear affairs and disarmament, has departed for a visit to the PRC to initiate negotiations for establishing bilateral cooperation for the peaceful use of nuclear technology. Although the PRC is one of the world powers that has atomic weapons, it is not advanced in the use of nuclear energy for domestic, peaceful purposes, such as producing electricity by nuclear plants, the reverse of the case of Argentina.

CONTRACT TALKS STALL ON WAGES, BENEFIT FUNDS

PY201700 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Mar 85 p 7

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN) -- Unified CGT leaders yesterday shrugged off suggestions that the government might soon drop its current wage adjustment policy, saying "we have President Raul Alfonsin's promise and we're going to stick to that."

On the strike front, meanwhile, court workers yesterday marched on Congress, railwaymen confirmed they would work-to-rule as of today, construction workers marched on government House, and state workers in Cordoba, Neuquen, and Tucuman staged strikes to back various demands.

National CGT Secretaries-General Osvaldo Borda and Jorge Triaca dismissed suggestions by Economic Coordination Secretary Adolfo Canitrot that the government might change its policy adjusting monthly wage hikes to 90 percent of the previous month's inflation rate. But Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli dropped further hints yesterday, saying "new parameters" might have to be discussed if the government adopts a new anti-inflation plan. Borda and Triaca also formally denied the CGT had decided to suggest a three-month wage and price control programme to combat inflation.

Government continued to differ with labour and business on the controversial issue of administrative control of workers' social benefits funds -- the key obstacle to the signing of a socio-economic contract.

PROSECUTOR ON JUNTA'S 'DIRTY WAR' RESPONSIBILITY

PY182250 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Mar 85 p 5

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Federal appeals court prosecutor Julio Cesar Strassera yesterday described the 711 specific cases of human rights violations on which he is basing the trials of the nine members of the first three military juntas as exemplary. In statements to the "Manana, Tarde y Noche" programme on Radio Belgrano, Strassera said in some cases the guilty could be identified but not in others and "I submitted 711 cases which are exemplary because they do not encompass all that happened in the country" during the so-called dirty war against subversion. He said in his opinion the junta members, who in their time were commanders of the Armed Forces, were responsible for having issued orders for their subordinates to commit the crimes involved in the trials. "In the best of cases, they knew these crimes were being committed and failed to take the necessary measures to prevent them," he added. The prosecutor stressed the subordinates' duty to obey orders did not justify the carrying out of atrocities, but refused to comment when asked if after the junta members were convicted an amnesty would be declared for those who carried out their orders, saying it would be a political decision.

When queried on the similarity of the junta member trials and the Nuremberg trials after World War II, Strassera said the Nuremberg trials were staged by the victors with the support of their arms and justice. But the junta trials "were ordered by the victors of a democratic election," he added. The Nuremberg trials judged associations, organizations, such as the SS and the Gestapo, but here "only men, individuals responsible for the management of the institutions, and not the institutions themselves are on trial," Strassera said.

Further Comments

PY212140 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 Mar 85 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Federal Prosecutor Julio Strassera said yesterday he would prove next month that members of the Armed Forces carried out countless illegal arrests on orders from the first three military juntas currently facing charges of human rights violations. Strassera made the statement in a writ replying to demands from the federal appeals court that within three days he present a detailed report of the incidents and events on which he will base his charges of human rights violations against the nine plaintiffs.

Strassera said the charges were already detailed in a previous presentation to the court and added in the public hearings starting next month he would show the plaintiffs organized an illegal repressive apparatus of which the 711 specific cases on which they were questioned were only a representative sample.

Five of the plaintiffs -- former Presidents Jorge Videla and Roberto Viola, Admirals Emilio Massera and Armando Lambruschini, and Brigadier Orlando Agosti -- are currently being held under rigorous preventive arrest. Former President Leopoldo Galtieri is also under rigorous preventive arrest, but in connection with the handling of the 1982 Malvinas war against Britain, while the other three plaintiffs are free on their own recognizance.

Strassera said the plantiffs used the state structure for the apparatus under which their subordinates carried out illegal arrests, torture, robbery, homicides and rape. He said they were not only responsible for facilitating the crimes for which they are charged but also for not having prevented them, being able to do so. The prosecutor said the plaintiffs also issued false statements denying the incidents or insistent claims and continued the system in the face of reiterated protests by international organizations and foreign governments.

ENTIRE JUSTICIALIST SUPERIOR COMMAND RESIGNS

PY201425 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0134 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Mar (TELAM) -- All 70 leaders who make up the Justicialist Superior Command and its Political Advisory Commission, which were designated by former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron 12 months ago, have tendered their resignations through separate missives sent to Madrid. By tendering their resignation in solidarity with her resignation from the party, they are giving the former president freedom of action to reorganize the party. None of the resignations, which were sent to the Spanish capital early March, have yet been answered. They had been kept secret, but were leaked tonight. These statements are signed by the two bodies, which are divided into a 4-member Political Board, the Command of 15, and the 52 members of the Political Advisory Commission, which, in turn, is divided into the subcommissions of economy, international affairs, labor and social security, public health, justice, education, culture, science and technology, national defense, and mass media. Justicialist Superior Command sources leaked that only those who were outside Buenos Aires at the time the statements were drafted, statements which, in turn, resulted from the news on the resignation of Peron's widow as the party's leader in February, have not signed the resignation.

The members of the Justicialist Superior Command, which was designated by the former president in June to pay better and permanent attention to the major interests of the nation, are: Jose Humberto Martiarena, Pedro Arrighi, Emilio Mondelli, Jorge Camus, Juan Gabriel Labake, Arolinda Boniffati, Jose Deheza, Haydee Longoni, Rolando Natiuk, Antonio Lloveras, Hugo Mott, Alfredo Rodriguez, Marina de Bonetto, Humberto Romero, Carlos Torres, and Clotilde de Volpe. In turn, General Confederation of Labor leaders Jorge Triaca and Saul Ubaldini were members of the political advisory commission.

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE -- Buenos Aires, 8 Mar (TELAM) -- Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and French Ambassador Antoine Blanca have signed a complementary agreement on scientific and technical cooperation in accordance with the cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation agreement signed on 3 October 1964. The new agreement involves scientific and technical research and the training of teachers. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1936 GMT 8 Mar 85 PY]

WHEAT FOR PERU -- Buenos Aires, 7 Mar (TELAM) -- The National Grain Board has reported that Argentina will supply Peru with 700,000 tons of wheat per year for 4 years to meet 70 percent of Peruvian wheat needs. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2122 GMT 7 Mar 85 PY]

GOVERNMENT OFFERS PROTECTION TO COB'S LECHIN

PY212025 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpt] If Juan Lechin Oquendo needs government protection, the Interior Ministry can see to it, Interior Under Secretary Gustavo Sanchez said today. He pointed out though, that Lechin apparently does not need police protection because he has an efficient security guard made up of leaders and workers.

Sanchez made this statement in response to some charges leveled by Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] leader Jose Justiniano, who had reported on plans to kill the old labor leader.

Sanchez added that if we had to report all the cases of people receiving daily threats we would have to live in armored houses. He thus ridiculed the charges on an alleged attempt to murder Lechin Oquendo.

[Begin Sanchez recording] Lechin Oquendo has all the guarantees granted by law. If we had to report on who has and who has not been threatened in Bolivia, those of us who have been threatened would have to live in armored [word indistinct] to avoid being [words indistinct]. In our country there is no... [rephrases] There have been threats. There were serious threats like the one aimed at Ambassador Corr, a plot that we crushed. There have been death threats to some government officials, but we are not afraid.

I believe that Mr Lechin Oquendo [words indistinct]. If Mr Lechin wants, I am personally willing to provide him with a permanent security guard, although he seems to have a very efficient security guard made up of workers and other people who protect him. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT, COB TO RESUME DIALOGUE 22 MAR

PY220300 Paris AFP in Spanish 0252 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] La Paz, 21 Mar (AFP) -- Episcopal Conference Secretary Alejandro Mestre reported here today that the dialogue between the government of President Hernan Siles Zuazo and the COB, in search of a solution to the indefinite general strike being stage by Bolivian workers, will resume 22 March at 0930 (1330 GMT).

Cabinet, COB Positions

PY212310 Paris AFP in Spanish 2225 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] La Paz, 21 Mar (AFP) -- President Hernan Siles Zuazo's ministers have decided to accept, with a 24-hour delay, the mediation of the Catholic Church and thus resume the negotiations with the COB which seek the lifting of indefinite general strike that has been in effect for 14 days. This was officially reported today in La Paz.

This information was released by Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena, who indicated that the bases for the dialogue will be released at the end of a cabinet meeting that has just started. Sources close to the leadership of the labor movement have indicated that the influential Mineworkers Federation of Bolivia (FSTMB) has presumably given up its demand for a minimum salary with an adjustment clause, a demand that caused two failures in previous negotiations.

Industry and Commerce Minister Hugo Montero Mur has stressed that the members of the cabinet are not willing to let themselves be insulted by the representatives of the workers, and the ministers believe that a 30-day truce would be appropriate thus implying a suspension of the protest.

Meanwhile, four groups of housewives have begun a hunger strike supporting the workers. These hunger strikes are being carried out in the cities of La Paz, Oruro, Potosi, and Santa Cruz.

COB leaders have warned that if the Church's mediation fails thousands of wage earners throughout Bolivian territory will go on a hunger strike.

At the same time, small Army tanks have again, for the second consecutive day, taken up positions at key points in La Paz in order to prevent blockades in the streets and marches by the strikers.

Blockades have not been used since Wednesday.

RADIO STATION SAYS BUSINESS RETURNING TO NORMAL

PY212030 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The measures of force adopted by the COB the indefinite general strike are gradually slackening. Several labor sectors in the interior of the country have resumed their work because of the need to supply staples.

Reports from Cochabamba, Oruro, Sucre, and Santa Cruz say that the workers have decided to resume their work in general assemblies, after having been on strike for 14 days.

The general indefinite strike is only being observed partially, since there are serious (?differences of opinion) within the Bolivian labor movement.

Work has been resumed in Sucre, an agricultural and industrial city, where workers have definitively proposed to end the indefinite general strike in order to be able to supply food to the rest of the country.

Chuqisaca workers have expressed their support for accepting the government's proposal, while the labor sector is deciding on different methods for meeting the worker's demands in the future.

Since the task of teachers is unavoidable and patriotic, the teachers of Sucre believe that it is their duty not to paralyze their work.

The factory workers have also returned to work in La Paz. In Oruro, the most important mining district of Bolivia, activities are also returning to normal.

The principal mills, bakeries, and textile factories resumed work after there departmental COB held a district meeting. Railway workers there also returned to work yesterday night.

There is absolute tranquillity in Oruro, Bolivia's folkloric capital, according to a report by our Illimani correspondent. Businesses are working normally. The productive sector of the western district of Santa Cruz is working. Teachers also began working on 18 March, as a result of an agreement between the district COB and the education sector. Departmantal authorities have reported that everything has returned to normal and that transportation among the provinces is normal. Textile and agricultural industries are working normally, according to our report from our correspondent this morning.

Minister on Strike Losses

PY220150 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpt] After 14 days of a national strike, Planning Minister Freddy Justiniano has stated that the outcome of the situation is negative. The paralyzation of the country, ordered by the COB is causing a tremendous loss and it will be very difficult to recover, Justiniano stated.[recorded passage indistinct]

The planning minister added that the government is observing with great satisfaction the resumption of activities, namely services, in the cities of Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, Tarija, and other districts.

[Begin Justiniano recording] In this regard, we are viewing with great satisfaction the resumption of activities in the Departments of Santa Cruz, Beni, and Tarija, and the situation of relative normality in Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, and [word indistinct] (?This paralysis) is causing a loss of a minimum of $10 million daily [words indistinct] seeking to find progressive solutions [words indistinct]. [end recording]

CONGRESS APPROVES POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS

PY221404 Paris AFP in Spanish 1334 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] La Paz, 22 Mar (AFP) -- It has been offcially reported here today that the National Congress has approved the postponement of the presidential election until 14 July. This election, which was initially slated for 16 June, has been postponed at the request of the National Electoral Court, which contended that the indefinite general strike the workers have been observing for the past 15 days has delayed the printing of voting slips and the construction of ballot boxes. The request has been endorsed by virtually all political parties.

PRESIDENT TO REMAIN IN HOSPITAL AT LEAST 2 WEEKS

PY211830 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1155 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The doctors have confirmed previous reports that President Tancredo Neves' health is good and that his recovery is normal. However, they have not said when the president will be fully recovered.

The information at hand, including previous information released by Dr Enrique Pinoti, states that President Tancredo Neves will remain at least another 2 weeks in the hospital. This is the estimate made by Dr Pinoti after examining the president this morning, but it is still not an official decision of the medical team attending President Tancredo Neves.

Neves Doing 'Very Well'

PY212145 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 2112 GMT 21 Mar 85

[1800 Medical bulletin, read by presidential spokesman Antonio Brito]

[Text] Twenty-four hours after his second operation, President Tancredo Neves is doing very well. He is recovering normally. His clinical condition allows us to report that his state of health, considering his first post-operative day, is very good.

The bulletin is signed by Drs Renault Mattos Ribeiro Pinheiro da Rocha, and Gustavo Arantes.

Third Operation Necessary

PY220240 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Mar 85 p 1

[Excerpts] President Tancredo Neves, 75, was operated on again yesterday afternoon. FOLHA DE SAO PAULO has learned that in the first operation on the night of 14 March, a leiomyoma, a benign tumor, was removed from the president's intestine.

The authorities decided to report diverticulitis fearing that the word tumor might alarm the public.

According to what this newspaper has learned, a mesenteric thrombosis was detected yesterday. This is an acute obstruction of the arteries of the mesentery. The obstruction has caused a necrosis in the affected area. After the necrotized portion was removed, a jejunostomy was performed, that is, the jejunum was opened, in the abdominal wall, and this opening will allow the drainage of the liquids and solids processed in the duodenum. This will allow the intestine to rest, but a new operation will be needed to normalize intestinal functions.

Despite the optimistic tone of the official reports, the presidential spokesman's behavior and the attitude of major leaders have indicated that Tancredo Neves is in serious condition.

SARNEY MAY CALL ELECTIONS; DECISION IN 72 HOURS

PY211919 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1559 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 21 Mar (EFE) -- Presidential spokesman Antonio Brito has stated in the third bulletin released this morning that President Tancredo Neves' health is developing favorably.

Acting President and Vice President Jose Sarney has told the leaders of the Democratic Alliance, a coalition which politically supports Tancredo Neves, that he will wait 72 hours before making a decision on the future of the nation.

Local political sources reported today that should the president's health worsen and should he be unable to assume power, Sarney will reportedly remain in the presidency and direct elections will immediately be called to ensure the democratic designation of a new government.

GULF WAR CAUSES MOST EMBASSY OFFICIALS TO LEAVE IRAN

PY210259 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Itamaraty spokesman Renato Prado Guimaraes today reported that 16 out of the 20 Brazilian Government representatives who live in Tehran yesterday left Iran because of the worsening of the war with Iraq. Brazilian Ambassador Landolpho Angonio Borges da Fonseca, Counselor (Helder de Morais), Secretary Victor Hugo Irigaray, and Military Attache Colonel (Alfonso Belo Wanderley) are the only Brazilians left in the city.

The situation of the some 5,000 Brazilians who live in Iraq is more calm, because the majority is in the northern regions, where the fighting is less intense. Nevertheless, the Brazilian Embassy has instructed Brazilian enterprises operating in that country to put together an evaluation plan for their personnel.

SARNEY MEETS WITH MOZAMBIQUE MINISTER VELOSO

MB220601 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Jose Sarney, the acting president of Brazil, has reaffirmed his country's support for the Mozambican Government and expressed the intention to expand cooperation in the economic as well as sociocultural fields. Jose Sarney said this in Brasilia last Tuesday when he received a Mozambican delegation led by Jacinto Veloso, the minister of state for economic affairs for the presidency, which left for the capital of Brazil to attend the installation ceremony of President Tancredo Neves. During the audience, the Mozambican delegation delivered a message from President Samora Machel for President Tancredo Neves. In Brasilia, our country's delegation held talks with the ministers of foreign affairs and mines and energy, among other leaders of the Brazilian Government.

NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA RULES OUT ARMS PURCHASES

PA211816 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Sao Paulo -- The best weapon that Brazil can offer Nicaragua is solidarity. This will help us resolve our problems through peaceful means, said Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega upon his arrival in Sao Paulo.

The statement, issued after Governor Franco Montoro and Sao Mayor Mario Coas headed the welcoming ceremony and honors reserved for heads of state, ruled out reports that President Ortega met with Brazilian authorities to negotiate the purchase of armaments. During his 2-day visit Commander Ortega will meet with leaders of the Brazilian Workers Party and members of Sao Paulo's private enterprise sector.

NICARAGUA'S D'ESCOTO CRITICIZES VATICAN RULING

PA201613 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Rio de Janeiro -- Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has criticized the Vatican decision banning him from carrying out his priestly duties as long as he remains Nicaragua's foreign minister. As a Nicaraguan and as a priest I felt obligated to accompany my people in the struggle for liberation and as a man and a Christian I accepted the call of my people's representatives in the search for the consolidation of dignified and honorable foreign relations, D'Escoto said.

Comments on U.S., Contadora

PA211822 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Rio de Janeiro -- Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto today questioned the support the United states gives to the Contadora Group, claiming that it appears that the purpose of such support is to make time for the consolidation of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

In an interview granted to the daily JORNAL DO BRASIL, the minister noted that in spite of this, Contadora does have the possibility of producing a peace agreement. He said that the United States is interested only in overthrowing the current Nicaraguan Government or in denying Nicaragua its right to choose its own political system. The United States is defying international law and is thus threatening world peace, he said.

D'Escoto said that all Latin America must be united, not only in word but also in stronger and more important ways to defend sacred rights, because if these rights are not respected we will never be able to implement national policies to respond to the people's interests.

Finally, the foreign minister said that the United States will be found guilty by the International Court of Justice which is handling the case involving charges that the United States mined Nicaragua's ports.

NEW FINANCE MINISTER IMPOSES SPENDING COST

PY181929 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Mar 85 p 4

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Francisco Dornelles will impose a 10-percent cut in public expenditures. This will be the first austerity measures promised by the government of Tancredo Neves. Dornelles did not give the total cuts, but they will represent savings of 10 trillion cruzeiros in the budget for general expenses, 3.4 trillion cruzeiros in the investment budget of state-owned enterprises, and 2.5 trillion cruzeiros in the cost of running the central administration. Minister Dornelles explained that there will be no cuts in personnel salaries, because this would be impossible.

Dornelles is determined to punish, even with dismissal, the managers of state-run enterprises who fail to service properly the foreign debts contracted by their enterprises. On Monday, 18 March, he will send a note to the Bank of Brazil [BB] and the Central Bank [CB] asking that, as of now, he be provided with the names of the directors of those state-run enterprises that fail to honor their foreign debts. Under the Figueiredo government, for instance, the BB and the CB never made those reports which were ordered by a resolution or the Finance Ministry general legal counselor that provides for the punishment that Minister Dornelles intends to apply henceforth. In this way, Dornelles will try to spare the treasury the obligation or covering the debts of state-run enterprises, thereby allowing the use of fiscal surplus for covering other priority expenses.

The finance minister recalled that the essence of the Neves government's financial policy is to rigorously control government expenses. Even before he assumed office, Minister Dornelles affirmed that he intended to take austerity seriously. He said that at the time when, at a meeting with the Planning Minister Delfim Netto, he had agreed on an 80-percent cut in government expenditures over the first quarter of the year. It is expected that in this way the government will be able to honor its commitments with the IMF regarding the reduction of public deficit and inflation.

The 10-percent savings in public expenditures will make it possible to transfer resources to allocations for agriculture and export credits, thus complying with the president's directives to expand the production of basic food items and to encourage export trade. These resources will immediately benefit the commercialization of the current agricultural harvest, which is facing a credit shortage.

JUSTICE MINISTRY OFFICIAL ON NEW ASYLUM POLICY

PY211650 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Mar 85 p 6

[Text] Brasilia -- Marcelo Cerqueira, legal adviser of the Justice Ministry, yesterday said that from now on foreigners who have sought asylum in Brazil will not be expelled for political reasons. This was announced by the justice minister himself during the installation of Jose Paulo Sepulveda Pertence as national attorney general. The legal adviser recalled that "as a federal deputy I used to feel sorrow when the Legal Department of the Justice Ministry ruled in favor of the expulsion of politicians who had sought asylum in Brazil."

According to Cerqueira, former deputy for the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party, "this is over now, because Brazil's doors are open." The legal adviser explained the change in the position of the ministry toward expulsion by saying that "the nation has changed and so has the Justice Ministry."

DIRECTOR EXPLAINS EBN'S NEW DEMOCRATIC POLICY

PY210204 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The duty of the BRAZILIAN NEWS AGENCY [EBN] is to strengthen Brazilian democracy through the dissemination of truth. This orientation has been outlined by Carlos Marques, the new EBN director-president, who was today installed by Justice Minister Fernando Lyra in Brasilia.

Lyra justified Marques' designation on the grounds that it is a tribute paid to those journalists who love freedom. Lyra explained:

[Begin recording] The EBN is expected to disseminate the truth. It is expected to do even more: disseminate information that should faithfully reflect the events that occur in a free and sovereign country. It is not expected to use the information at the service of the government or its party; it is expected to disseminate accurate reports, from which the people have the right to learn and which the government has the right to disseminate. This should be done without concealing anything; without subterfuge, hidden interests, or servility.

The EBN will now discharge this duty. And it will discharge it with a team of qualified, honorable, and independent professionals. [end recording]

Carlos Marques said that the EBN will no longer be at the service of government propaganda and that it will become a channel for the dissemination of official data and of the demands posed by society.

[Begin Marques recording] The EBN will be one of the mechanisms for the democratization of Brazilian communications. It will favor the participation of the whole society in the debates over major national issues. [end recording]

PDS BLOC LEADER SUPPORTS PCB LEGALIZATION

PY220205 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Mar 85 p 6

[Text] Brasilia -- Deputy Prisco Viana (Bahia State), leader of the Social Democratic Party [PDS] bloc in the Chamber of Deputies, yesterday expressed his support for the proposal presented by Deputy Roberto Freire (Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party -- Pernambuco State) for the legalization of the Brazilian Communist Party [PCB], adding he said that he will discuss the subject in the bloc.

Viana said he does not see any reluctance of the PDS to support the proposal, according to what he said to Freire and to PCB Secretary General Giocondo Dias, in his office.

The PDS leader noted that the idea is to seek the legalization of the PCB in view of the favorable political atmosphere established with the new Republic.

ANALYSIS OF MILITARY FRIENDSHIP WITH U.S.

PY212320 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 19 Mar 85 p A 3

[Editorial: "Another Visit"]

[Text] The recent visit by U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Nestor Sanchez has coincided with the visit by two other important political observers, Langhorne Motley from the U.S. State Department and Sir William Harding from the UK Foreign Office. This circumstance has resulted in the public considering the three visits as equally important. However, Sanchez' visit should be considered from a different point of view.

Relations between the U.S. Pentagon and the Chilean Government have not been bad. The U.S. military, who above all oppose Soviet totalitarianism, understood very well the reasons that led to the coup of 11 September 1973. The defense organizations of the two countries have maintained normal and cordial relations since then. Several high-ranking military officers and delegations from the U.S. War College and the U.S. Congress Defense Committee have visited Chile. Productive meetings between the two joint chiefs of staff have also taken place. In each of those meetings, which took place either in the United States or in Chile, all issues were discussed within a similar framework. They start off on the common ground that both countries belong to the Western world and are determined to defend the free world to the fullest extent possible, therefore justifying the coordination of defense plans and standardization of military equipment. Doctrines and procedural aspects, mutual logistical support, and specific issues of each meeting are discussed. During these working sessions the Chilean military have repeatedly explained to their U.S. counterparts their reason for temporarily being in government.

In turn, the U.S. military have been sincere and categorical when saying that despite their goodwill, there are some factors beyond their control, such as decisions adopted by Congress and policies of the executive branch, particularly in the case of former administrations, which prevent any initiative in the field of defense. However, the work achieved within a strictly military field has been important and productive, as admitted by the Chilean and American defense officers.

Nestor Sanchez' visit is a consequence of the solid friendship existing between the military of the two countries. The meeting held between President Pinochet and the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense demonstrates this fact.

NAVY COMMANDER OPENS JUNTA SESSION PERIOD

PY211625 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 0030 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Report by Osvaldo Yanez]

[Excerpts] The Navy commander, Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, has opened the government junta's 1985-86 session. Merino inaugurated the fifth legislative period under the new Constitution. He stated that during this period the government junta will study several draft bills and international treaties, among them the laws regarding political issues, such as the law of political parties, the electoral court, and the states of exception. The Navy commander noted that in the process of drawing up laws, in addition to requesting the valuable cooperation of the universitites, the government junta has always sought the active participation of the Chilean community and has tried to make this process as public as possible.

PEOPLE'S FRONT ORGANIZATION STAGES 48-HOUR STRIKE

PA211728 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] The People's Front is staging a 48-hour strike. The president of this organization, which is made up of several labor and student groups said that thus far several people have been arrested. (Ernesto Alvarez) said that this measure has been adopted to pressure the government into approving the 10,000-sucre minimum wage.

[Begin recording] [(Alvarez)] Should those people not be released today, the People's Front will submit a writ of habeas corpus to Quito municipal authorities as well as to authorities of other municipalities, to attain their freedom. We will address the participants of a human rights meeting currently taking place in Ecuador in which even Mr Esquivel, who is president of that commission and president of [name indistinct], is participating...

[Reporter, interrupting] I understand that the People's Front said today that it will begin staggered hunger strikes in various provinces throughout the country. In the case of Pichincha Province, will all seven member organizations of the People's Front participate?

[(Alvarez)] The hunger strikes will continue until the 10,000-sucre minimum wage is approved. [end recording]

IMF APPROVES GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC PROGRAM

PA151610 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Carlos Julio Emanuel Moran, general manager of the Central Bank of Ecuador, reported yesterday in Guayaquil that the IMF has approved Ecuador's economic program and that 97.5 percent of the international banks have accepted the package. This means, he added, that within the next 30 or 40 days we will be able to meet all payments due, which total approximately $200 million, with the new credit that will be available to us. The IMF's approval of Ecuador's economic program will release $160 million of the stand-by credit that Ecuador requested when it submitted its letter of intention to the IMF.

The government's economic program covers two main areas: first, the short-term stabilization of economy, and second, policies to attain economic growth in the medium and long-term. The document includes fiscal, monetary, and production policies. Emanuel reported that all phases of the program are being implemented and that they are having good results. Therefore, current mechanisms will be preserved and there will be no changes in the current rates of foreign exchange, interest rates, fuel prices, or subsidies, he said.

PRIME MINISTER ON ERADICATION OF TERRORISM

PY162130 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0202 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Lima, 15 Mar (EFE) -- Peruvian Prime Minister Luis Percovich today stated that terrorism will be eradicated from Peru, but that this will be achieved gradually and with the cooperation of all the Peruvians.

During a press conference held at the conclusion of a cabinet meeting at the Government Palace in Lima, Percovich stated that the problem of terrorism not only affects Peru, but the whole world, and, as an example, cited Colombia and Italy, where terrorism could not be completely eradicated despite efforts that have been made.

Percovich felt that the attacks carried out over the past few days by members of the Maoist Shining Path organization against police forces, attacks which left a toll of two dead and two injured policemen, do not constitute the beginning of a stage of selective terrorism.

This is not the first time that this has taken place, Percovich stated, recalling that over the past 4 years Shining Path has attacked 340 police stations, besides attacking mayors, other municipal officials, governors, and public servants.

Percovich noted that the terrorist actions have taken place to a greater or lesser degree since the organization surfaced in Peru in 1980.

On the other hand, in statements made at the conclusion of the cabinet meeting as well, Interior Minister General Oscar Brush has reported that presumed Shining Path members on 14 March shot deputy candidate Walter Panduro in Tingo Maria, Huanuco Department, a town located in the jungle area, injuring his shoulder.

Brush confirmed that on 15 March the police raided a clandestine printing shop used by the Shining Path, located in Chorrillos District in Lima, and felt that a very important office used for printing Shining Path propaganda material was raided.

Brush added that four persons were arrested and that weapons and explosions were found in the place.

ARMED FORCES CHAIRMAN RULES OUT MILITARY COUP

PY211615 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0334 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Lima, 20 Mar (EFE) -- Air Force General Cesar Enrico Praelli, chairman of the Peruvian Armed Forces Joint Command, today stated that there is no chance that a military coup will take place in the country.

Praelli stated that, on the contrary, the Armed Forces will guarantee that the general elections scheduled for 14 April take place normally, so that everyone may now rest assured and be aware that the Armed Forces are watching that a clean electoral process takes place throughout the country.

Concerning the strike by the state workers, Praelli added that this strike, which is more than 2 weeks old, has a political rather than economic motivation.

In statements reported by the official news agency, ANDINA, Praelli also said that the public servants are making exaggerated economic demands at a time when the country is suffering a serious economic crisis which affects all Peruvians. We are all facing the same problems, and we feel that these disproportionate claims will not solve anything, commented Praelli, who then called upon the strikers to end thier strike and to become aware that the country is going through an economic crisis and that all Peruvians are trying to cope with this situation.

The strike, called by the Intersectorial Confederation of State Workers (CITE) and not officially recognized, today entered a stage that could lead to a solution, since the talks between the CITE leaders and the government, which is represented by Prime Minister Luis Percovich, have been resumed.

AIR FORCE TAKES CONTROL OF AIRPORT; FLIGHTS RESUME

PY221253 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Air traffic, the handling of cargo, and the transit of passengers at the Jorge Chavez International Airport has been restricted. However, this has not affected interested parties.

Air Force personnel took control of the airport in view of the strike being staged by the employees of the Corporation of Airports and Commercial Aviation Workers [Corpac] who threatened to block Jorge Chavez Airport.

Today Air Force personnel took over control of the Jorge Chavez International Airport. Emergency personnel have taken control of the radar, the flight control department, and the control tower, among other areas.

The Peruvian Air Force has adopted this measure because all the areas had been abandoned by the airport employees as of 1900 yesterday. In view of this, between 1900 yesterday and today the six scheduled flights of Air Peru, one of Varig, and one of Ecuador Airline were canceled. After midnight all flights returned to normal, that is, flights arriving and departing domestic as well as international flights.

An armed squad of Civil Guards are guarding the main entrance of the international airport where the striking employees have gathered.

LUSINCHI'S CONDOLENCE MESSAGE TO USSR'S KUZNETSOV

PA211806 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 12 Mar 85 p 1 A

[Condolence message to Vasiliy Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium from President Jaime Lusinchi -- date not given]

[Text] On behalf of the people and Government of Venezuela and myself, I extend to Your Excellency our condolences on the lamentable death of His Excellency Konstantin Chernenko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. For this reason, I ask you to convey this message to the Soviet people and to the relatives of this distinguished statesman of your friendly country. I reiterate to Your Excellency my heartfelt condolence.

PRESIDENT RETIRES ARMY COMMANDER GODOY

PA210339 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] As exclusively reported by "Notirumbos," President Jaime Lusinchi said that his decision to retire Commander Luis Alfonso Godoy is well-founded. As is well known, Commander Godoy was retired from the Armed Forces because the investigation council that examined his conduct found that it was not the most appropriate conduct for an officer in our national Armed Forces. Vice Admiral Andres Eduardo Brito Martinez, defense minister, also feels that the decision about Commander Godoy is not a retaliatory one.

[Begin recording] [Brito] Absolutely not. I think that when we speak of retaliation, there must be some opposing interest and this is not so in the case of Commander Godoy. This has not been the stand of the investigation council, which has acted with great fairness, responsibility, and seriousness. Along these same lines, it was the decision of the Armed Forces commander in chief, the president.

[Question] Mr Minister, does this hamper the investigation of three former ministers?

[Brito] Absolutely not. Commander Godoy's case was strictly a disciplinary one within the Armed Forces, while the three former ministers case is a legal case being undertaken by the competent court, in this case the military court.

[Question] Then, the reason for his removal was his insubordination?

[Brito] That is correct. The investigation council centered its analysis on the preservation of the Armed Forces discipline because discipline is fundamental to the military institution. [end recording]

These were remarks by Defense Minister Andres Brito Martinez who spoke at the Miraflores Palace immediately after President Lusinchi decided to retire Commander Luis Godoy. It is also known that Commander Godoy's lawyer, Dr Esperanza Martinov, said last week that the investigation council recommended Godoy's retirement from the national Armed Forces.

COSTA RICA

JUSTICE MINISTER VIEWS IMMIGRATION FROM NICARAGUA

FL212206 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1735 GMT 21 Mar 85

[By Juan Carlos Flores]

[Text] San Jose, 21 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Costa Rican Minister of Justice Hugo Munoz said here today that Costa Rica must keep Nicaraguan citizens from entering Costa Rican territory, and order their return if no judicial solution to their situation can be found. He added that even when Nicaraguans who have crossed the border request political asylum in Costa Rica, their situation is very serious because they do not qualify as refugees.

Costa Rican Minister Counselor for Information and Communications Armando Vargas has announced that the presidential cabinet has resolved to ask the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for a legal study on the position of Nicaraguan youth who evade compulsory military service. Vargas said that, for the moment, we will not close the border to immigration from the neighboring country because it would be impossible to do so; 275 km of the 318 km of border consist of inaccessible jungle. Costa Rica recently pledged to Nicaragua that it would not grant political asylum to persons evading military service. Vargas said that even when the position of these persons has been clarified, the sociopolitical and economic effects of the immigration bomb on Nicaragua will be harmful to its way of life.

Costa Rican Minister of Foreign Relations Carlos Gutierrez has said there is no contradiction between the recent agreement with Nicaragua and the granting of refugee status to immigrants from that country. Article 31 of the Costa Rican Constitution says the Ministry of Foreign Relations and the immigration authorities are empowered to grant refugee status.

NEW LABOR UNION CREATED IN ATTEMPT TO SPLIT CUT

FL210216 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0135 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpt] San Jose, Costa Rica, 20 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- A new central labor union has been formed in Costa Rica after the main Confederation of Costa Rican Workers union was split. The president and secretary general of the United Confederation of Workers [CUT], respectively, Mario Devandas and Rodrigo Urena said that a group of union leaders without organization [as received] preferred to create the Confederation of Costa Rican Workers. Urena said that ideological, political, and other similar factors influenced the unsuccessful attempt by the divisionists to split the country's most powerful labor confederation.

GROUP DECRIES MARXIST INFILTRATION OF CHURCH

PA211850 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 12 Mar 85 p 9

[From the column of the "Free Costa Rica Movement"]

[Text] In this column we have a report on a letter from a large group of Costa Ricans who live in southern San Jose in which they cite the Marxist activities of foreign congregations and priests in that important sector of San Jose.

The letter is addressed to Msgr Roman Arrieta, leader of the Costa Rican Church, urging him to intervene so this situation will not get worse. We believe that the church has the obligation to investigate these charges by an important sector of the church community, especially when it states that the churches are being used for Marxist proselytizing.

The charge is not really surprising because it is not the first time that such actions have occurred in the country.

Foreign Marxists have been able to infiltrate our education centers, state institutions, cultural organizations, and now our church. These elements have large economic resources to develop their destabilizing operations against the Costa Rican state.

The complicity of some authorities has made these individuals arrogant and in some cases they have even participated in violent actions against Costa Rican citizens.

We believe that it is time for order to be brought to the Marxist political activities of foreigners in our country because if it is not, the time will come when the Costa Ricans will feel like aliens in their own country.

In the case of the charges presented by a large group of residents of southern San Jose to the head of the Catholic Church, it is important that we stress the importance of those charges and the actions that the church authorities take as a valuable precedent in maintaining the spiritual peace of the Costa Rican house in the face of communism's attempt to infiltrate our church.

Marxism is incompatible with the church! The holy father has stated this! All of us have the duty to struggle with courage and determination against that germ that wants to destroy the foundations of the Catholic Church.

EL SALVADOR

GUERRILLAS DESTROY SAN DIONISIO MAYOR'S OFFICE

PA210304 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] FMLN guerrillas destroyed the mayor's office in San Dionisio, Usulutan Department, 117 km east of San Salvador. The attack took place last night when a rebel column entered the town and proceeded to destroy the files containing birth certificates and personal identification cards. The rebels also destroyed typewriters and desks on the premises. This action raises to 15 the number of mayors' offices that have been destroyed in Usulutan Department since 1981, according to officials.

In another action in El Tigre canton, 3 km east of Santiago de Maria, rebel units destroyed the Lourdes coffee mill, according to civilian and military sources in that city in Usulutan Department. The damage included a power plant that was part of the mill's installations. A police team visited the site to confirm the damage. The Lourdes mill did not have a military surveillance. This was the second mill destroyed in the area this year.

Meanwhile, antiguerrilla operations continued today for the fourth straight day in the northern sector of the department after leftist rebels attacked units patrolling the military route near Las Marias village last Tuesday. According to military information two rebels were killed in the attack.

Operations have extended to the sectors known as (Porolo), Nueva Esparta, and Lislique where leftist groups had recently lodged until the Army moved in.

PASSENGER, FREIGHT RAILROAD SERVICES SUSPENDED

PA210315 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 19 Mar 85 p 3

[Text] Railroad services were suspended nationwide yesterday as a precautionary measure to protect the lives of the workers and the equipment, according to a spokesman for the Salvadoran National Railroads (Fenadesal) who was approached yesterday regarding the decision. The spokesman explained that passenger service has been suspended for quite some time due to terrorist attempts and the damage to and the destruction of several engines and cars detrimental to Fenadesal organization. He also said the suspension of passenger service was agreed to in an effort to avoid innocent victims in terrorist attacks, as was the case in Apopa and Aguilares.

The Fenadesal official also revealed that freight service was also suspended yesterday and will continue throughout the electoral period. He explained that Fenadesal may consider renewing cargo service a week after the elections, at least to the western sector of the country, if circumstances permit.

Asked if the suspension of the railroad services was the result of a lack of security in view of reports that beginning tomorrow Armed Forces personnel will return to their respective garrisons, the railroad official replied that such a situation was partly considered, but it was basically decided that it would be best to suspend all railroad traffic throughout the country.

MNR MESSAGE TO CITIZENRY ON UPCOMING ELECTIONS

PA210411 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 19 Mar 85 p 29

[Paid advertisement by the National Revolutionary Movement, MNR]

[Text] The MNR addresses the people of El Salvador to inform them of its position and to offer its guidance in view of the worst economic, political, and social crisis in the recent history of our homeland. Elections for mayors and deputies have been announced within the framework of the dispute between the executive branch and the ultra-left forces in the state administration. This has been shown by the controversial electoral law, the problems within the Central Elections Council, the budget law, and other cases reflecting the anarchy and chaos ruling in most state institutions at a time that requires highly responsible definitions and political behavior.

The current situation must be seriously analyzed in order to overcome the limitations of the elections, which in no way constitute the beginning of a solution to the serious situation affecting the country.

The problem that must be solved is political. Its roots stem from the economic and political exclusion of the working, urban, and rural sectors; the middle class; and other democratic sectors who have been devoid of access to power through peaceful and parliamentary means, and through the practice of authoritarianism and their abandonment.

The people's parties have waged civic and political battles and have come to an absolute conviction that the political regime is corrupt, fraudulent, and disrespectful of the people's will as expressed at the polls. The denial of the people's real participation has led them to rise up with arms and fight the dictatorship to build a real democracy and create a regime based on social justice and human solidarity.

Today in El Salvador the people, through their organizations, have no opportunity of expressing themselves freely and fully, of participating in and deciding on economic issues that affect them, or of benefiting from the product of their work, because a minority amasses and controls the wealth and power.

Holding the coming elections is a way to postpone and avoid decisions on real solutions. They are intended to stir false hopes and demagogically manipulate the political will of the voters, many of whom go to the polls with good intentions in an effort to find a political solution. False elections and systematic deceit lead to greater frustrations. There is no true solution through mere fiction and appearances.

The war continues with tragic consequences for the human, social, economic, and moral aspects. The nation's situation will not improve because "the electoral panacea" will neither alleviate the scarcity and higher cost of indispensable goods and services, nor change the conditions of unemployemnt, the population's displacement, and the loss of hundreds of youths fighting in armed groups in a climate of uncertainty and insecurity for most of the population.

Only rightist parties are participating in this event and are trying to lure the voters into a game of appearances. It is obvious to the people that neither the Assembly nor the mayorships will offer conditions for the majorities to obtain their aspirations and objectives. None of the participating parties nor their U.S. protectors really want to promote a truly democratic, popular political program.

The way in which the elections have been designed and organized only serve the Reagan administration's domination objectives in our country and in the Central American region. They claim El Salvador is undergoing a democratization process, yet they finance an antipopular war through the Armed Forces to exterminate our fellow countrymen.

The country has been under a state of siege for the past 5 years, which is only slightly modified during the electoral periods. We will not dwell on details of the antidemocratic conditions, but we will point out that in El Salvador there is not a single individual or family who feels secure in being able to express themselves freely in political activities, due to the many repressive ways of the system, including the death squads linked to different civilian and military groups.

The most recent practice is the indiscriminate air bombings, which is a criminal way of making war against the helpless civilian population. Within this climate of violence, we bring to your attention the fact that all elections have required the participation of military operations, precisely as a means to intimidate the voters.

Under such conditions, there can be no substantial changes or progress for Salvadoran society. The people must not let themselves be fooled because neither the Legislative Assembly nor the mayorships will permit them to go any farther. The process will only serve for some political and economic groups of the extreme right to recover positions of political control that they have practically lost.

The proposed bills recommended by the popular and democratic organizations will find no support. The municipalities will continue in total abandonment while the nation's resources are spent on the fratricidal war. The motives are clear for issuing laws that increase taxes, create compulsory military service, and make survival of the Salvadoran people even more difficult.

Taking the civil war situation into account, and that the government forces will not be able to defeat the rebels, the conflict will worsen due to the growing intervention of the Reagan administration and its aim to arm the government Army. According to findings of a congressional investigation (Hatfield, Leech, and Miller), in the past 5 years out of $1.7 billion in U.S. aid to El Salvador, 75 percent has gone for military purposes. Therefore, it is imperative that the dialogue started in La Palma and continued at Ayagualo goes on to negotiations and gradual agreements. This does not mean surrender by any of the parties, but a reasonable and honorable way to a solution. The proposals of peace with justice are specific. Our efforts in this regard will be upheld despite any obstacles.

The MNR reaffirms the principle that the elections are a democratic means of consultation as long as they are held under conditions of true popular participation. The upcoming elections will only culminate a period of institutional "legalism" behind the people's back.

The MNR believes that the citizens have no free options and are under all kinds of pressures. We know that on election day they will evaluate the abnormal circumstances and act with a political criterion within the limitations of those imposed elections. The thing to do is to back the dialogue, to go on to the negotiations of political and military aspects, such as the humanization of the war, and to demand through all means the creation of democratic conditions that will ensure freedom and social welfare for our people.

EXILE IMPLICATES VIDES CASANOVA IN ROMERO DEATH

PA220111 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2135 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Washington, 21 Mar (EFE) -- A former Salvadoran military chief today accused current Salvadoran Defense Minister General Eugenio Vides Casanova of being involved in the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero.

During a press conference held today, former Colonel Roberto Santivanez, currently in exile in the United States, said that there is no doubt that the assassination order was given by Roberto D'Aubuisson, but that it is obvious that Vides Casanova knew about it. In a preview of the interview which will be broadcast on Sunday by British television's Channel 4 -- coinciding with the fifth anniversary of Msgr Romero's assassination, the Salvadoran militaryman disclosed more information regarding several attacks committed by the ultraright based on a document authored by D'Aubuisson.

Santivanez, who was director of the Salvadoran Intelligence Department in 1978 and 1979, said that different U.S. Government agencies have been protecting several of the culprits in these actions. He explained that the ultrarightist activists' actions were decided upon by a group from the so-called military security committee, and that in the early 1980's Colonel Vides Casanova was a member of the committee, as well as Colonel Oscar Reynaldo Lopez Nuila, deputy public security minister; General Jose Guillermo Garcia; and Colonel Nicolas Carranza.

During the interview with British television, Santivanez said that Colonel Vides Casanova, then chief of the National Guard, had to know who assassinated Msgr Romero because he gave the order for the National Guard to participate with D'Aubuisson's death squads. To further strengthen his thesis regarding the defense ministers, Santivanez said that when (the assassins) returned to the headquarters, they were applauded by their companeros -- something that could not have gone unnoticed by the National Guard chief.

The assassins were two members of the former Somozist National Guard and two soldiers of the Salvadoran National Guard, the former colonel said. Santivanez also said that several Salvadoran officials, paid by the CIA, knew the identity of the authors of the deaths of Attorney General Maric Zamora and of six leaders of the opposition, and that a high-ranking military officer was involved in the murder of the four U.S. nuns.

He said: My sources are sure that Lieutenant Colonel Casanova Vejar was responsible for the deaths of the nuns. Santivanez continued to accuse the current defense minister, Colonel Carranza, and the head of the CIA station of covering up this crime for more than a month. Santivanez also mentioned the possibility that the U.S. Embassy could have had prior knowledge of the attack on Rodolfo Viera, responsible for the agrarian reform program, and two U.S. technical advisers.

Regarding the CIA's infiltration of the Army, the exiled militaryman said that at least three high-ranking officers, Colonels Carranza, Colonel Reinaldo Golcher, and Contreras [not further identified], have been receiving salaries from the CIA since 1979. However, when questioned regarding the direct role played by the CIA, he admitted that he could see no clear participation of the CIA in any of the death squad operations or in the tortures committed in El Salvador.

Last year Santivanez was removed from his position of Salvadoran consul in New Orleans after he denounced the complicity of some militarymen in the activities of the ultra-right during secret testimony before the U.S. Congress and during a CBS interview in which he had his face covered.

GUATEMALA

GOVERMENT REMAINS 'NEUTRAL' IN AREA CONFLICTS

PA210225 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 Mar 85 p 7

[Text] Guatemala maintains its neutral position regarding the problems that arise in the area and will never allow its territory to be used for attempts to destabilize brother countries, Ramon Celada Carrillo, secretary of public relations of the presidency, reiterated here yesterday.

The government spokesman was referring to the presence in the country of Nicaraguan political leader Arturo Cruz, who has expressed his reasons for visiting Guatemala before several reporters. The truth, Celada said, is that everyone has a right to do what is not forbidden by the law, but the government has been very clear on this issue. It will not allow political activities aimed at causing problems for friendly countries. Any attempt to try and turn the country into a base for operations must be stopped. Guatemala will maintain its neutral position regarding the problems in the area, Celada Carrillo concluded.

TALKS ON BELIZE SUSPENDED ONLY TEMPORARILY

PA210240 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 20 Mar 85 p 4

[Text] Guatemala has not halted its talks with the United Kingdom regarding Belize, nor has it renounced its rights over that territory or its demands, Ramon Celada Carrillo, secretary of public relations of the presidency, said yesterday. The government spokesman added that Guatemala maintains its position regarding its claim over Belize and will not recognize the independence unilaterally granted to that territory by the United Kingdom.

He added: Just as stated by Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade, the talks have been temporarily suspended until the United Kingdom shows its willingness to reach an agreement. The spokesman clarified that the suspension of the talks is only temporary and that the talks can be resumed.

HONDURAS

EDITORIAL: BUSH VISIT STRESSES 'NICARAGUAN THREAT'

PA210233 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Mar 85 p 6

[Editorial: "Mr Bush's Visit and Washington's Timetable"]

[Text] Judging by U.S. Vice President Bush's statement during his 4-hour stopover at the Palmerola military base and in La Paz, the chief purpose of the visit was to convince President Roberto Suazo Cordova and General Walter Lopez Reyes, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, that the U.S. Government is determined to destroy the Nicaraguan Sandinist regime.

Our country has the privilege of being a key element of that policy. Vice President Bush's visit, which coincided with the celebration of the Honduran president's birthday in the alternate capital city of La Paz, was arranged so that -- in the words of a U.S. official -- "everyone could see the (U.S.) commitment to a free and democratic Honduran nation and against the communist, terrorist forces seeking to destabilize the region." Therefore, it is concern over the Nicaraguan threat that prompts 100-percent support for this "democratic ally." In this regard, Vice President Bush said: "We will not allow Honduran security to be imperiled by the Sandinists, who impose a totalitarian regime and insist on becoming allies of communist and terrorist nations."

Bush reaffirmed President Reagan's stance regarding revolutionary Nicaragua and Reagan's adamant support for the CIA contra army, describing its ethics as comparable to the historical, nationalist, and independence-seeking characteristics of liberator Simon Bolivar's army, which freed almost all of South America from Spanish colonial rule through a colossal war of independence.

"The White House will strive with all its might and through all available means to support these persons whom we call freedom fighters in their struggle against Managua's Marxist-Leninist totalitarian government," Bush said.

President Suazo Cordova, who expressed his concern over the increased threats against our democratic institutions, presented Bush with a list of requests, the content of which Hondurans have not yet learned. This will be the third or fourth letter to President Reagan requesting assistance, in view of his government's close cooperation, as diplomats call it, with U.S. interests.

In addition, Bush got President Suazo to accept an invitation to visit Washington in May to meet with President Reagan. They will likely settle pending agreements currently being discussed during technical meetings with military officials, economists, and politicians -- in sum all officials -- concerning sensitive issues which are in fact related to the problems that have arisen from Honduran subservience to U.S. policies regarding Central America.

The visit by Vice President Bush, who greatly influences the U.S. presence, undoubtedly reflects Honduras' particularly key relevance in U.S. political games in the region, especially from a military standpoint. We owe the honor of having Bush visit us for 4 hours at Honduras' Palmerola base to the fact that things are not currently turning out as the Reagan administration had hoped.

Meanwhile, still pending are the problems relating to the Regional Military Training Center [CREM]; to the actual training of Salvadoran troops; to the Honduran Army's cooperation with the Salvadoran Army to end the civil war in El Salvador; to the presence of counterrevolutionaries in Honduran territory, international law postulates notwithstanding, and what this situation implies for our country's internal security and economy; and finally, to purely economic matters.

For the time being it is clear that high-level U.S. officials have stated that their troops will not leave Honduras as long as the Marxist-Leninist threat from Nicaragua exists, thus implying an unbreakable adherence to the military agreements based on the restrictive and unconstitutional framework of the 1954 bilateral military assistance agreements.

Therefore, let us wait, because as a Liberal president once said during brighter days: "Washington's timetable sets the pace."

COURT RESPONDS TO CHARGES BY CONGRESS PRESIDENT

PA210322 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Communique issued by the Honduran Supreme Court; date, place not given -- read by reporter Jose Danilo Izaguirre]

[Text] Out of respect for national and international public opinion, the Supreme Court issues the following statement in reply to the accusations leveled at its justices by National Congress President Efrain Bu Giron.

1. The Supreme Court has learned with concern and most profound surprise about the bizarre, strange accusations raised by the president of the National Congress from the floor of that honorable legislative chamber, charges that are unworthy of his high-level office.

It seems incredible that a person holding such a high office should raise slanted and preposterous charges which are so slanderous and far from the truth that they do not deserve discussion or airing before the public.

2. Everyone knows everyone in Honduras, and the record and political affiliation of every citizen and public official are known by the Honduran people by memory.

3. Neither the Congress nor its president, in particular, is empowered to appoint this type of commission and much less bring the justices of the Supreme Court before official investigating panels. These are independent government branches which are not subject to or subordinated to each other. Even though they complement each other, they must show respect for their high-level positions and legitimate authority for the sake of the state and to preserve the country's state of legality, which is the foundation of Honduran democracy. Besides, the Congress has not approved all reports and acts of the judicial branch through the required decrees.

The Supreme Court will not engage in inconsequential polemics that can only harm our country both locally and abroad.

Out of respect for its high-level functions, our country's state of legality, and the Constitution of our Republic, it will not answer insult with insult, offense with offense, or slander with slander; nor will it reassert a falsehood or lie as has been done by those who have maliciously rendered false testimony before the Honduran nation.

NICARAGUA

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS ATTACK FROM COSTA RICAN AREA

PA220428 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] San Jose, 21 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Costa Rica has received a diplomatic protest from the Nicaraguan Government over an attack on the San Juan del Norte border area in Rio San Juan Department which, according to the Nicaraguan Government, was initiated from Costa Rican territory, it was reported here today. The message addressed to Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez and signed by Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco is dated 19 March in Managua, but was revealed by the Costa Rican foreign minister today. During the criminal attack in which, according to the protest, about 400 men participated on 18 March, the counterrevolutionaries used mortars and cannons brought from Costa Rican territory. This very serious action by terrorist groups that use Costa Rican territory to attack Nicaragua are evidence of the need for Costa Rican to act immediately to capture and expel these mercenaries, the message received in this capital states.

U.S. SAID TO INDIRECTLY FUND OPPOSITION GROUPS

PA211355 Managua Radio Sandiono Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] New York, (ANN) -- The United States has begun discreet, but overt [as heard] financing of the rightist opposition in Nicaragua, using a mechanism created specifically for this purpose.

(Gail Richmond), an official of the National Endowment for Democracy, has reported that this semi-private organization, which operates with government funds, has approved substantial donations to the Nicaraguan opposition daily LA PRENSA; the so-called Permanent Human Rights Commission; the rightist Democratic Coordinating Board, CDN, which groups three opposition parties; the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, COSEP; and an opposition labor sector.

The National Endowment for Democracy was created by the Reagan administration at the end of 1983, when the U.S. Congress approved its operation and financing. Formally, however, it is a private enterprise with an independent board of directors.

In June 1982, Reagan himself announced his intention to create an organization to promote the democratic infrastructures throughout the world as part of U.S. competition with the USSR.

Some critics have called the organization the covert CIA. The organization's $18 million budget for this year is fully financed by the U.S. Congress, in other words, with federal funds.

(Richmond) said that according to its statutes, the organization cannot supply funds to foreign institutions directly, and thus is doing so through U.S. institutions that request funds on their behalf.

In the case of Nicaragua, the organization that is being used as an intermediary for the rightist opposition is called Friends of the Democratic Center in Central America, Frodemca. The following Nicaraguan institutions and projects have been financed during the past few months through Frodemca, with U.S. Government funds channeled by the National Endowment for Democracy:

1. LA PRENSA: $100,000 for chemical products, printing material, spare parts, photographic paper, and so on, so it can continue publication.

2. CDN: $150,000 for creation of a so-called Center for Democratic Studies.

3. Permanent Human Rights Commission: $50,000. This organization's role is to protest alleged abuses by the Sandinist government.

Both LA PRENSA and the CDN are constantly mentioned by U.S. Government spokesmen, including Reagan himself, as "truly democratic forces," whose struggle against the Sandinist, presumably Marxist-Leninist, and totalitarian regime, with that of the counterrevolutionary armed forces, deserves total U.S. support.

During the last days of his administration, President Carter approved the secret financing of the unarmed democratic institutions in Nicaragua. According to the U.S. press and intelligence analysts, the CIA has continued and intensified this policy during the Reagan administration. While at the same time it is financing and directing the so-called secret war aimed at overthrowing the Nicaraguan Government. Some observers believe that the overt channeling of funds to the Nicaraguan rightist opposition through the endowment is another step in the U.S. direct involvement in Nicaragua's internal politics and an attempt to coordinate more efficiently the various forms of civilian and armed struggle against the elected Nicaraguan Government.

According to Reagan administration sources, a key figure in this plan is opposition leader Arturo Cruz, CDN presidential candidate in the November 1984 elections, who withdrew his candidacy at the last minute following U.S. directives, in an attempt to discredit the elections in which the Sandinist candidates won a resounding victory.

Arturo Cruz participated in a press conference in Washington in November last year, at which time the creation of Frodemca was announced by two members of its board of directors, Anger Videl Hughes, former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, and William C. Doherty, director of the American Institute for Free Labor Development, AIFLD.

Apparently, Frodemca was created as a channel for financing Cruz' activities. Cruz has very little social support in Nicaragua, but is considered Washington's, quote, favorite, unquote.

On 3 January, Cruz held a press conference in Washington, with LA PRENSA's former director Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, to announce for the first time his support for continued U.S. support for the contras. After visiting three counterrevolutionary camps, Cruz signed a document issued by the principal counterrevolutionary forces in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 2 March, in which they presented an ultimatum to the Sandinist government, proposing significant changes in the government's structure and the initiation of a national dialogue before 20 April. The document said that if the Nicaraguan Government rejects their proposal, the counterrevolutionaries will definitely close the path for a political solution to the conflict. Then, the Nicaraguan authorities banned him from entering the country, where he would supposedly travel to, quote, explain, unquote, the joint position assumed by him and the armed groups attached to the opposition sectors, and disclose their participation in a CIA plot against the government. Meanwhile, the participation in Frodemca's board of directors and in the endowment of well-known contra leaders shows that for the United States, there is no dividing line between armed and civilian opposition in Nicaragua. There is only a division of work toward a common goal: overthrowing the Sandinist government.

The following are some of the members of Frodemca's national council [as heard]: William Doherty, whose AIFLD has channeled CIA funds to foreign trade unions, and currently finances a Nicaraguan antigovernment trade union; J. Peter Grace, president of the transnational W.R. Grace, who has been linked to organizations granting financial support to the contras and to the Nicaraguan ecclesiastical hierarchy; (Tim Kimbold), president of the Foundation for Democratic Education, who has acted as liaison between the counterrevolutionary leaders and sectors of the U.S. Congress; (Max Singer), president of the Potomac Organization, considered as one of the "ideological cadres of the "secret war"; John Silber, president of Boston University, and member of the Kissinger Commission on Central America; and Jorge Mas Canosa, chairman of the Cuban-American National Foundation, promoter of the funds from anti-Castroite groups to the contras. Henry Kissinger, former U.S. secretary of state, is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Endowment for Democracy. As we all know, the conclusions of the bipartisan commission he headed are the basis for Reagan's interventionist policy in Central America.

(Gail Richmond), member of the National Endowment for Democracy told ANN that his organization does not funnel money to the contras, and does not support the destabilization of the Nicaraguan Government. He stated that the organization's statutes ban the financing of, quote, physical violence, unquote, or, quote, intelligence agents, unquote. Nevertheless, he refused to comment on the marked tendency to link the activities of some opposition sectors financed through Frodemca and those of the counterrevolution supported by the CIA.

(Mary Temples), executive director of Frodemca, only said that her organization wants to keep the flame of democracy aglow in Nicaragua.

LA PRENSA EDITOR ADVOCATES U.S. AID TO CONTRAS

PA211921 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Mar 85 p 16

[Text] New York (ANN) -- Jaime Chamorro, codirector of the Nicaraguan opposition daily LA PRENSA, recently told a group of American visitors that the counterrevolutionary war that the United States finances is "fundamental to preventing the entrenchment of a communist regime" in Nicaragua.

Chamorro made the statement before a group of American tourists who visited the installations of LA PRENSA on 20 February. That newspaper recently received a donation of $100,000 from the National Endowment for Democracy [preceding words in English], a government organization created by the Reagan administration in 1984 to help support foreign "democratic" establishments.

Excerpts of Chamorro's speech appeared in the U.S. press this week, while ANN was able to obtain a taped recording of the entire conversation, which was conducted in English.

The codirector of LA PRENSA stated that the "armed resistance" by contras and the "diplomatic, political, and economic pressures" by the United States are "fundamental" in preventing Nicaragua and "all of Central America from going communist" in the long term. Chamorro said: "War is an unfortunate thing. We don't want it, but it is necessary to counter the Sandinists." If Sandinists are not stopped, he added, "sooner or later Nicaragua will be communist, and in the long term, El Salvador and then Mexico will be, too. This poses a problem to your security, and you must stop it," he told the visitors. LA PRENSA's codirector explained that the principal aim of the Sandinists, whom he said are avowed Marxists, is to transform the country into an "Eastern-styled communist society" and to "extend communism throughout Latin America."

The Nicaraguan conflict, he observed, is an East-West confrontation. In this war "we are not neutral because we do not want communism to take root here," he said. "I believe that as Salvadoran communists are entitled to Nicaraguan, Cuban, and Soviet aid, Nicaraguan contras have a right to demand and receive U.S. aid," he stressed. Chamorro said that the Sandinists believe that the United States is conducting a war of aggression against Nicaragua, and that is why "anything we say in favor of the counterrevolution" is considered "treason." "We are not able to print our opinions on this," he noted. "All we can say in our newspaper is that only democracy can arrest the counterrevolution. If there were democracy in Nicaragua there would be no need for counterrevolution," Chamorro emphasized.

With regard to LA PRENSA's editorial policies, LA PRENSA does not publish articles detailing the excesses that contras commit "when they stage bombings and kill people, including women and children," Chamorro said, "because we are not allowed to print" the abuses committed by the government and "we do not want to give them free publicity."

Chamorro ended by explaining what he described as the division of labor that exists among those who oppose the Sandinist government: "Contras fight with weapons and we, with political parties and the private sector, are putting up a different kind of battle. We are both working to prevent the entrenchment of a communist regime in Nicaragua," he said.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY GENERAL STATUTE APPROVED

PA211733 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] The general statute of the National Assembly was approved in its entirety today and, therefore, the general statue of the State Council has been canceled. The new statute was approved this afternoon after heated and broad debates that in some cases included abrupt behavior. It will go into effect as soon as it is published by any media source, in spite of the fact that the gazette may publish it later. Article 56 of the last chapter, which deals with the latest measures, establishes that the National Assembly's Board of Directors will cease functioning at the conclusion of three legislative periods, at which time a new board will be elected. This means that it has been established that the current Board of Directors of the National Assembly will be in office for 3 years, which correspond to three legislative periods.

SERGIO RAMIREZ DISCUSSES FOREIGN POLICY

Examines European Ties

PA211537 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 1 Mar 85 p 17

[Interview with Vice President Sergio Ramirex by Gregorio Selser -- date and place not given -- Part I]

[Text] [Selser] Your recent visit to Europe was seen as a new effort by the Nicaraguan Government to obtain support for its desire for dialogue and peace vis-a-vis the Reagan administration. Was your mission successful?

[Ramirez] The main reason for my trip to Europe was to work on a diplomatic flank that will help us isolate the extremist policies of the Yankee administration with regard to Nicaragua. Those policies have an increasingly more aggressive tone and reject the possibility of an understanding. According to his most recent remarks made in a press conference, Mr Reagan wants to eliminate the revolution and destroy the revolutionary people.

He does not leave any margin for a negotiated solution. What we tried to explain to the European governments is that Nicaragua maintains its desire for negotiations, that it believes that a negotiated solution continues to be possible in the Central American crisis, that we want to resume the bilateral dialogue begun with the United States in Manzanillo, and that we do not want any more obstacles to the work of the Contadora Group.

[Selser] Some of the press said that you had been heard with reticence and reservations....

[Ramirez] The message that we gave to the Governments of Spain, Britain, France, and Ireland was that the United States must be persuaded to seek a negotiated understanding. In this regard, our mission was successful because we were heard and in general understood. In my opinion, the U.S. policy is not supported due to its intransigence and this is also valid in the case of the British Government.

[Selser] Italy, Portugal, the FRG, and the Nordic countries were not on your itinerary. Was there a reason for this omission?

[Ramirez] No, no reason. I had received a special government invitation to visit France and another to participate in a political debate at Oxford University in Great Britain. The trip was organized around these invitations, but this does not mean that we will not take other initiatives with regard to other West European countries.

[Selser] Is there a cooling off in your relations with or a reluctance on the part of countries with socialist governments, such as those of Portugal and Italy? On this side of the Atlantic we have received explicit or tactical messages of disaffection with the Nicaraguan revolution from leaders of the Socialist International, such as Portugal's Mario Soares and Italy's Bettino Craxi. Does this affect your government, bearing in mind the support that the European social democracy gave to the revolution?

[Ramirez] I do not think one can say that the attitudes of the Socialist International, and of the European social democracy are homogeneous and united with regard to Nicaragua or that there is a single consolidated position. In fact there are various attitudes. We prefer to view these various political attitudes as they are translated into the specific policies of those parties with regard to the Sandinist revolution and its government project. With the Italian Government we have relations of cooperation that have facilitated the installation of the first phase of the Momotombo geothermal project and we are negotiating the second phase. In this sense, relations with the Craxi government are good. With the Portuguese Government we have few economic relations, but in general I would say that the balance is more positive in the overall relations. We cannot forget that we are involved in a struggle between U.S. policy and Nicaragua and that the Reagan administration tries to affect our good relations with the West European countries. So far, the United States has been unable to achieve its objective of isolating Nicaragua from the West European countries.

[Selser] I understand those relations were reinforced after the 4 November elections....

[Ramirez] Even before the elections, the EEC and each European Government had some kind of bilateral relations with Nicaraguan, which did not involve withdrawing support for our country. I am referring to the Swedish social democracy and to personalities such as Willy Brandt. However, following the elections and the establishment of a government elected by the people in unprecedentedly irreproachable elections, we have achieved legitimacy in the yees of Western democracies. Only the U.S. continues to deny us that accomplishment because it is blind. Spain, Italy, Portugal, and of course France do not deny this.

This is a new aspect, that is, that our relations with West European governments are relations between legitimate governments.

[Selser] Is this the case with Portugal as well?

[Ramirez] In this case, there could be differences in terms of political philosophy and ideology regarding what Social Democrat Soares considers to be just, unjust, or appropriate. That touches on ideological controversy. But we prefer to view this kind of relationship through a prism of specific achievements as opposed to what we could call ideological political differences.

[Selser] I have left for last the FRG leg of your European tour. There is a well-known fact: the freeze on a 40-million-mark aid package that had been granted to Nicaragua by the Social Democratic Party government. I believe that the main reason for that freeze is the distance that the Christian Democratic Party wants to place between it, that is, the current FGR Government, and the Sandinist government.

[Ramirez] As we know, since it took power, the current FRG Government has been following Washington policies more than any other. We could almost say the same applies to Great Britain. They are governments that comfortably take the U.S. side when it comes to Nicaragua and Central America. Both of those governments are willing to enthusiastically embrace whatever the Reagan administration decides regarding Central America, especially Nicaragua. However, we do not believe that doors are closed to us in Western Europe, despite the attitude of the current British and German Governments.

[Selsen] Did you know that the FRG's Green Party is organizing a collection drive to obtain the 40 million marks that the Kohl administration is denying Nicaragua?

[Ramirez] No, I was not aware of that. We would like to meet with Kohl to explain our viewpoint to him. I believe that it would be fruitful meeting. I also believe that a new perspective and the possibility of reaching an agreement has emerged since the German deputy foreign minister visited Managua. We think that the suspension of aid is the result of that country's political viewpoint on Central America and its special relations with the Reagan administration. I believe that should the FRG come to realize that Nicaragua advocates negotiations, that it is not an enemy of the United States, that it is not childishly defying that power or disputing any strategic-military space with it, then that would be enough encouragement to begin seeking an understanding with us. To us, our problem is not the FRG or Great Britian, but our relations with the United States. I said that our relations with the EEC are basically positive, despite the fact that the hardline positions toward us still come from the FRG and Great Britain. Nevertheless, my meeting with Mrs Thatcher was positive simply because if took place and because it gave here the opportunity to hear differing viewpoints; that is, viewponts different from those the Washington government gives her. I believe that this kind of dialogue provides an opportunity to vent different viewpoints.

Comments on East-West Aid

PA211654 Mexico City El DIA in Spanish 2 Mar 85 p 17

[Interview with Vice President Sergio Ramirez by Gregorio Selser -- date and place not given -- Part II]

[Text] [Selser] What is the magnitude of the aid provided by the Western industrialized and developed countries in comparison with the aid from the Socialist countries and the countries included in the Nonaligned Movement?

[Ramirez] In our international cooperation relations we have always sought one criteria more than equality: We have made efforts to establish diversity in our economic, diplomatic, and political ties. We have received aid from the socialist countries, from the USSR, from the Arab countries, from the Islamic countries like Iran, from the Latin American countries, and from the West European countries. This great variety in our economic relations has helped us to construct a balance that does not make Nicaragua dependent on any single bloc. Instead, with this diversity Nicaragua seeks a permanent source to feed its basic needs as a developing country. We have been successful in doing this. One consequence has been the basic understanding we have achieved, despite the U.S. campaign to prevent it, from countries of different ideological backgrounds which have perceived that our country wants to lift itself up by its own efforts, that it is in the process of developing a different model, an independent model. This understanding is reflected in their aid.

[Selser] Is the impression correct that in order of importance, the nonaligned countries and the socialist countries have contributed the most to Nicaragua's reconstruction and its process of revolution, as well as its social and economic changes?

[Ramirez] That is correct, but I would place the socialist countries first in the order of importance, then the East European countries, which have also given significant support to the revolution's economic development, then the Latin American countries, and finally the poorer countries of Asia and Africa. I would say that there has been balance in this support.

[Selser] Which Latin American countries have contributed the most? Obviously these include Mexico and Cuba, and not only because of their moral, political, and diplomatic contributions, such as the Manzanillo headquarters and the Contadora Group. However, the contributions of the other countries in the region are much less often referred to, although it is known that they have expressed their solidarity and brotherly support in different ways....

[Ramirez] Mexico's support has not just been in the political-diplomatic field. It has been the most significant of all the aid received from Latin American countries, and it is very important to stress this, just as Cuba's economic, financial (they canceled our $75 million debt), technical -- in the form of specialists such as doctors, health specialists, and so forth -- aid has been important. Other countries also offered us aid, although Nicaragua's geographical [as published] does not favor this type of cooperation, as in the case of Argentina which, ever since Doctor Raul Alfonsin rose to power, has insisted on opening new doors of cooperation, even though that neighboring country's economic situation is not flourishing. We also have strong cooperation ties with Brazil. With Venezuela and Colombia, economic cooperation is almost nonexistent, but their actions within the Contadora Group have been significant.

[Selser] What is the attitude of the countries of the subregion, for example Guatemala, which has expressed hesitation in supporting aggressive warlike attitudes against Nicaragua, despite its military regime and its pro-American inclinations?

[Ramirez] You know that the problem on the isthmus is the distortion that the Central American Common Market is subject to, and the damage suffered in commercial exchange relations after the great integration crisis that emerged after the 1969 war between El Salvador and Honduras and in the late 1970's. Therefore, on the isthmus it is more a matter of commercial ties than of cooperation ties.

In Guatemala's case, relations may be better than with the other countries because Guatemala's position is, objectively, less committed to the blind dictates of the United States than other countries such as Costa Rica, dictates which have an enormous influence on the economic-political behavior of the Central American countries with regard to Nicaragua.

[Selser] LIFE magazine has just published an article with irrefutable photographs on training camps and counterrevolutionary operations in Costa Rica. I remember that several months before the event took place that same magazine revealed the preparations fow what was to be the invasion of the Bay of Pigs in Cuba. The similarities are surprising, with the exception that instead of Guatemala, the CIA has chosen Costa Rica this time. No less surprising is that Luis Alberto Monge's government, as quick as it usually is to violate its neutrality, has opted for total silence on this occasion. And with that, LIFE has made millions. Costa Rica's silence acknowledges the truth of the reports on the training camps owned by a U.S. citizen....

[Ramirez] I think this issue can be explained within the nature and peculiarities of the country. Costa Rica and Honduras are economically weak countries in comparison to Nicaragua. Here, in reality, the significant change that the revolution has brought about has been our independence with regard to the financial, economic, political, diplomatic, and military dictates that the United States wants to impose on the region, inasmuch as it considers the region a strategic area for its geopolitical interests. We are no longer sensitive to any type of pressure and blackmail from the United States. This is not the case with Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, which have not ceased to be weak and totally dependent because their commitment to the United States has not resulted in wealth, prosperity, or autonomy.

[Selser] It is a tie that smothers rather than liberates....

[Ramirez] Look, the U.S. military presence in Central America and the manner in which it forces these countries to lend themselves to the annihilating siege against Nicaragua introduces great and serious social and political distortions into all these countries, which are not prepared to nor capable of resisting the pressure and blackmail. This is the truth. Therefore, we would be wrong to blame the Costa Rican and Honduran Governments for their behavior without understanding the type of relationship they have with the enormous apparatus of global power enjoyed by the United States which, in its program to destroy the Sandinist revolution, uses the countries that surround Nicaragua.

In President Monge's case, I would say that his government has been unable to withstand President Reagan's diplomatic and military pressure. I think the use of Costa Rican territory to attack Nicaragua has taken place despite Monge's opposition, and the same is true of Honduras, which is being used, like Costa Rica, as a bridge for the aggression. LIFE magazine only confirms what we already know, although they now have photographs which are proof in themselves.

[Selser] I recall that the Nicaraguan Government itself has presented this type of proof to the Costa Rican Government....

[Ramirez] That is true. On several occasions we have presented Monge's government with complete and detailed lists of counterrevolutionary camps, houses, installations, and vehicles in San Jose, in Ciudad Quesada, and on the border with Nicaragua along the San Juan River in Guanacaste Province.

We have provided lists of farms the contras use, such as the one owned by a U.S. citizen, names of the persons involved, the landing strips used by the CIA airplanes, the places where they store supplies and arms. However, all of this has been in vain, due to San Jose's relationship with Washington.

[Selser] What then, is the role of the much-proclaimed declarations of "active and perpetual neutrality" that Monge so freely put forth in November 1983?

[Ramirez] Traditionally, the majority of the Costa Rican people have been the most pro-American on the isthmus, and perhaps in the entire hemisphere. Due to this historical inclination the United States has managed to create a wave of hysteria against Nicaragua. Former President Jose Figueres has just declared that he is perhaps the only Costa Rican who dares to say he is a friend of the Nicaraguans. No one in that country dares to say this, or admit to having dealings with us, whether good or bad. The U.S. dictate is that Costa Rica must be our enemy, because we supposedly could constitute a threat to U.S. integrity and the democratic traditions. It is very true that Reagan has had his greatest success in Costa Rica. This is something that, even when this war is over, even when peace is achieved, will cost a great deal to repair.

[Selser] This history, then, is not the result of an objective, justified cause....

[Ramirez] I do not think so. The Costa Rican people are victims of an enormous propaganda and misinformation apparatus, created to produce enmity toward us. It would be different if we had the same access to the press, television, and radio, which in that country are all at Washington's disposal from 0600 until 0000 every day.

[Selser] One last question, Dr Ramirez. The press on the entire continent last week reported the Argentine Government's appointment of several military attaches to its embassies in Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica, and Honduras who were involved, according to reports by the National Commission for Missing Persons headed by writer Ernesto Sabato, in torture cases, murders, and the disappearances of political and social prisoners.

Colonels Pedro Alberto Duran Saenz (alias "Delta") and Muhammad 'Ali Seineldin (alias "Ali Baba"), perpetrated their crimes within the framework of the "military security doctrine" while training the contra refugees in Honduras, and it is precisely to Honduras that they have been sent as diplomats. The fate of these officers indicates that their actions were not accidental, and that a sector of the Armed Forces which has supported these appointments that are so sensitive for the Central American region insists on taking the 1976-83 "dirty war" beyond the Argentine border. Is the Nicaraguan Government aware of the implications of these appointments.

[Ramirez] I personally was not aware of these details. The U.S. Government was determined to involve the governments of other Latin American countries in terrorist actions against Nicaragua, and Argentine Armed Forces and Security Forces officers participated in that task, at least until the Malvinas war broke out.

However, with President Alfonsin's rise to power there has been a complete change in that interventionist attitude. This is why we will continue to trust Dr Alfonsin, and believe that he will be capable of neutralizing any attempt to reproduce those interventionist and aggressive attitudes toward Nicaragua.

SANDINIST ARMY EVACUATES PEASANTS IN NORTH

PA202009 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Thousands of Nicaraguans are being forced to leave their homes and belongings in the country's northern area and are being taken to special camps. Eyewitnesses have told this station how residents of (El Sopotillo), (Colopondo), El Zapotillo, San Jeronimo, Los Encuentros, (El Requen), El Naranjo, and others are being evacuated by the Army.

According to our informants, troops are forcing peasants into large IFA GDR-made trucks and taking them at rifle point to a special camp in San Juan de Limay. Very few of those evacuated can gather their belongings, and most of them are forced to travel with only the clothes they are wearing. Our informants confirmed that they saw houses, once vacated by the families, sprayed with gasoline and burned in the owners' presence. Some houses are burned with all the furniture inside, and some are burned with the corn harvest in adjoining sheds. Some lucky people were able to tear down the houses and take the lumber and roofing with them. The Sandinists dismantled two evangelical churches in the area, and the parishioners were able to take some things with them.

In the region near these valleys, located in northern Nicaragua, one can see a painful exodus of families. Some are traveling by carts in a desperate attempt to take their belongings with them. The Sandinist Army is seizing their animals and taking them to state-owned cooperatives or farms.

The Sandinist regime claims that the reason for this exodus is that the people are living in a war zone, and that it is evacuating them to save their lives. But the truth is that the Sandinists want to prevent, at any cost, the peasant population's giving lodging and food to freedom fighters, so it is transferring the peasants and burning their homes.

It was also rumored that the Sandinist Army is planning a new offensive in the area, so it is evacuating civilians from their homes.

SOVIET MEDIA REPORTS R. CASTRO-GORBACHEV MEETING

FL212122 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow press gave very broad coverage to the meeting held yesterday between Mikhail Gorbachev, secretary general of the Soviet CPSU, and Raul Castro, second secretary of Communist Party of Cuba. The capital newspapers reported on the conversation at which Konstantin Rusakov, CPSU Central Committee secretary, Jorge Risquet, Politburo and Secretariat member of Communist Party of Cuba, and Cuba's Ambassador to the Soviet Union Lionel Soto, were also present.

On bilateral issues, the leaders of the two parties ratified their decision to continue strengthening the friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Cuba. While discussing current world issues, they expressed their mutual desire to continue the struggle, along with the rest of the socialist community and all peace-loving forces, in order to maintain peace and international security.

During the cordial and friendly meeting, political solutions to situations of conflict and for ways to increase the bases of peaceful existence were discussed.

PCC'S ORLANDO FUNDORA MEETS SOVIET OFFICIAL

FL210124 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Orlando Fundora, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee, has met in Moscow with Yuriy Zhukov, chairman of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace. At the meeting, the president of the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples and Zhukov, which was described as friendly, the relations between the two countries' organizations for the defense of peace were discussed.

FMC PRESIDENT ESPIN ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

FL192016 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1832 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Vilma Espin, alternate member of the party Politburo and president of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC], arrived today in Moscow. The Cuban leader was received at the capital airport by Valentina Nikolayeva-Tereskhova, member of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Committee of Soviet Women; Oleg Darusenkov, chief of the Cuba Sector of the CPSU Central Committee; and other personages.

OMEGA 7'S AROCENA TO BE TRIED IN MIAMI

FL211350 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1250 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Washington -- Already sentenced last year to life imprisonment in New York, counterrevolutionary of Cuban descent Eduardo Arocena will be tried again next week on terrorist charges at a federal court in Miami. Arocena, who is said to be head of the anti-Cuban terrorist group Omega 7, is facing 24 federal indictments, and several charges of unlawful association and manufacturing and supplying explosives.

BRAVO CALLS VISIT TO JAPAN SATISFACTORY

FL202253 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Flavio Bravo, president of Cuba's National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], has called the Cuban ANPP members visit to Japan very satisfactory in terms of bilateral relations.

Flavio Bravo and the Cuban delegation visited Japan at the invitation of the Japanese Diet. Meetings with members of the highest political and economic spheres of Japan were characterized by cordiality and fraternity.

LATIN AMERICAN, CARIBBEAN YOUTH MEETING OPENS

FL201328 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The Latin American-Caribbean Student Youth meeting for peace and against imperialist intervention was inaugurated in Havana by Walid Masri, president of the World Federation of Democratic Youth. He pointed out that the meeting will contribute to strengthening solidarity with the struggling peoples of this area. Walid Masri also referred to the 12th world youth and student festival, to be held this summer in Moscow, Soviet Union, saying it will be a magnificent and exceptional opportunity to observe the richness of the struggle of the Western Hemisphere's youth.

The meeting, which began on Tuesday, will coincide with the celebration this week in Cuba of the consultative meeting of the national preparatory committees for the 12th Latin American and Caribbean festival.

TRADE TALKS WITH ECUADOR END ON 20 MARCH

FL201350 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The official trade talks between a Cuban delegation and a delegation led by Ecuadoran Special Ambassador Jaime (Nevos) Velasco will end today in Havana. The Ecuadoran trade delegation headed by Jaime (Nevos) Velasco has met with Cuban authorities and visited places of economic and social interest.

The Ecuadoran special ambassador met with Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas. The Ecuadoran trade delegation has been in Cuba since last Thursday.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

FL211150 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] A trade agreement between Cuba and Ecuador has been signed in Havana after 1 week of talks between officials of the two countries and Ecuadoran businessmen. The Ecuadoran delegation was led by Special Ambassador Jaime (Nevos) Velasco, who said the document was of great interest to both countries. At a press conference, the Ecuadoran diplomat said the government of Leon Febres Cordero is practicing a new philosophy in its cooperation relations with other countries, and among them is Cuba.

(Nevos) Velasco said his meeting this week with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro was interesting, very friendly, and profound. The diplomat stated that during the meeting, they not only discussed economic matters, but they also reviewed the most important aspects of the situation in Latin America and the world.

(Nevos) Velasco also said the cooperation agreed upon by the two countries sets forth the relationship between the Bank of Ecuador and the National Bank of Cuba.

The special ambassador revealed that the negotiations dealt with the sugar, fishing, construction, cattle-raising, and foreign trade industries. He later indicated that the agreement specifies exchanges amounting initially to 5 million Canadian dollars and that amount can be increased by two or three times in the course of the year after an equitable analysis.

Rodriguez Meets Ecuadoran Official

FL211242 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1134 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with Ecuadoran Special Ambassador Mr Jaime (Nevos) Velasco, who is leading the Ecuadoran businessmen delegation which has been visiting Cuba since 14 March.

CARLOS R. RODRIGUEZ MEETS WITH FRG POLITICIAN

FL151648 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Politburo member and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met in Havana with the renowned politician (Wolf Brandendorf). (Brandendorf) presently chairs the recently created Europe-Latin America Institute founded through the initiative of the EEC countries and European Parliament.

The meeting was a good opportunity to discuss important aspects of the situation in Latin America, its relations with the United States, and especially Cuban policy regarding those problems. Matters referring to ties between Latin America and Europe were also discussed.

Before chairing the Europe-Latin America Institute, (Brandendorf) chaired the FRG State Institute of International Relations.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH BELGIUM

FL160030 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] The fifth session of Cuban-Belgium-Luxembourg joint commission for economic and industrial cooperation has concluded in Brussels with the signing of a document, which summarizes the results of the talks. Attending ceremony were Hector Rodriguez Llompart, president of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation, who signed the document along with Andre Kempinaire, Belgian secretary of state for foreign commerce. Both signatories expressed the desire to expand trade.

MEXICO TO RESUME OIL SALES TO NICARAGUA IN APRIL

PA160235 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] It has been unofficially reported in Mexico City that Mexico will resume supplying oil to Nicaragua in April and for the next 9 months. This will meet 50 percent of Nicaragua's oil requirements. The Secretariat of Energy, Mines and Parastate Industry and Mexican Petroleum, PEMEX, have indicated that talks between their officials and Nicaraguan diplomats are based on delayed payment clauses included in the San Jose pact signed in November by the Venezuelan and Mexican presidents. The secretariat has pointed out that Mexico will supply oil to Nicaragua when the Sandinist government pays its $50 million debt to Mexico or a new arrangement for the payment of this amount is agreed upon by the two parties. [as heard]

ANTIGUA-BARBUDA

NEW NDP PARTY LAUNCHED, ISSUES STATEMENT

FL211736 Bridgetown CANA in English 1640 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, March 21, CANA -- A new political party has been launched in Antigua and Barbuda and its leaders say they want to provide a viable alternative to Prime Minister Vere Bird's Antigua Labour Party [ALP] which is in almost total control of the 17-member Parliament.

The National Democratic Party (NDP) is led for the time being by a three-man steering committee, headed by medical Doctor Ivor Heath. The other memebers are Willmoth Daniel, an ex-member of the opposition United People's Movement (UPM), and Len Johnson, a business clerk.

The party joins three others in opposition to the ALP. With the exception of the leftist Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM), the Progressive Labour Movement (PLM) and the UPM were trounced by the ALP in the last general elections a year ago when the ruling party won 16 of the 17 parliamentary seats.

A policy statement issued today by the steering committee said the NDP was committed to chartering a new course in the national politics. It pledged to put the interest of all the people of Antigua and Barbuda before personal ambition, personal power, or personal gain. Accusing the Bird administration of corruption, the NDP statement said it will work for the complete eradication of bribery and corruption from public office. It pledged adherence to an anti-corruption code that would make it compulsory for government ministers to declare their assets upon assuming and leaving office.

DOMINICA

BANANA INDUSTRY PROBLEMS BECOME POLITICAL ISSUE

FL212138 Bridgetown CANA in English 1956 GMT 21 Mar 85

[By Peter Richards]

[Excerpt] Roseau, Dominica, March 21, CANA -- Dominica's ailing banana industry, the lifeblood of the economy and of 7,000 growers, is one of the main political issues as the island gears for a general election, much to the annoyance of officials in the industry. Officials say they do not want to see the industry -- Dominica's main source of foreign exchange -- turned into a political football.

The Dominica Amalgamated Workers Union (DAWU), which represents the majority of the industry's employees, has registered a very strong objection to any political party or politician attempting without invitation to turn a normal trade dispute into a political issue.

Chairman Garnet Didier of the Dominica Banana Growers Association (DBGA), which represents most of the fruit producers, complained that a recent outburst of political outpourings clearly showed up the politicians' ignorance of the beleaguered industry.

The controversy was caused by the disclosure that three financially-troubled fruit packing plants were being closed and at least 200 employees being laid off. Prime Minister Eugenia Charles' political opponents immediately went on the attack, blaming the government for the loss of jobs, and promising to keep the plants open if they win the election.

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SHELL FALTER

FL211716 Hilversum International Service in English 1552 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Negotiations between the Dutch Antilles Government and Shell Curacao have broken down and the state of the Shell refinery on the Caribbean island remains uncertain. The Antilles Parliament has been called into special session to discuss the situation. And Prime Minister Liberia-Peters leaves the islands on Thursday for emergency talks in the Netherlands.

According to usually well-informed sources, the deadlock in the negotiations is the result of Shell's continued insistence that the Antilles either buy a majority of shares in the Curacao refinery or face shutdown.

ST LUCIA

COMPTON RESHUFFLES CABINET, NAMES NEW MINISTER

FL212042 Bridgetown CANA in English 1859 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, March 21, CANA -- Prime Minister John Compton has added a new face to his cabinet and reshuffled the portfolios of two junior ministers, according to the OFFICIAL GAZETTE. The previously unannounced changes became effective March 7.

Clarence Rambally, formerly minister of state in the Ministry of Agriculture, is now minister with portfolio. Ex-parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Trade and Industry Brian Charles has been elevated to minister of state in the Ministry of Agriculture, replacing Rambally. Minister of State Louis George has moved from the Ministry of Education to be responsible for planning and development.

COMPTON MEETS QUEEN, DISCUSSES OCTOBER VISIT

FL202358 Bridgetown CANA in English 2110 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, March 20, CANA -- Prime Minister John Compton today met the Queen at Buckingham Palace and discussed her one-day visit to St Lucia next October, the Government Information Service said today. Compton is on a European tour which will also take him to Belgium, France, and West Germany. He was due in Paris late today. A spokesman from the French External Relations Ministry said Compton will meet Overseas Cooperation and Development Minister Christian Nucci tomorrow and Prime Minister Laurent Fabius on Friday.

TAIWAN INVESTMENT PROMOTION MISSION ARRIVES

FL202356 Bridgetown CANA in English 2122 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, March 20, CANA -- An investment promotion mission from Taiwan arrived here today from St Vincent. The mission, led by C.H. Yen, director of the marketing research department of the Taiwan External Trade Development Council, will promote joint ventures with St Lucian businessmen, the Ministry of Trade said. It will meet private sector representatives tomorrow.

The visiting mission will pay courtesy calls on the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Industry, and Tourism George Mallet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and will visit both the Castries and Vieuxfort industrial estates.

BURNHAM DISCUSSES FOREIGN POLICY, AREA CONFLICT

PA210430 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 4 Mar 85 pp D 1-2

["Exclusive" interview with President Forbes Burnham by Alfredo Pena at the Georgetown Government Palace -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Pena] Based on the Geneva agreement, Venezuela and Guyana have reinitiated their talks on the border issue. Would you accept whatever decision the UN secretary general makes regarding the resolution of the issue?

[Burnham] The role of the secretary general in this phase of the Geneva agreement consists of suggesting the path we should follow: conciliation, the International Court of Justice, or mediation. Whatever he decides becomes obligatory for the two countries.

[Pena] Not too long ago you said that you would not yield "one millimeter of territory" to Venezuela. You also said that our country wants to cut yours into pieces. On one occasion you put on a uniform and said that you would put troops in Essequibo. Do you still plan to do this?

[Burnham] I am a retired military man and occasionally I put on my Guyanese Army uniform, but this has nothing to do with the militarization of the area. We possess Essequibo on the basis of the 1899 ruling. The militarization or nonmilitarization of that territory would depend on the decisions made by Venezuela, and we don't think that Venezuela is looking for a military solution at this time.

[Pena] You are the one who said that you would deploy troops to Essequibo. Have you changed your mind?

[Burnham] I cannot change my mind because I never said that. What I said is that we are going to have border posts, which we did not have before. Now we have detachments on the border.

[Pena] On 3 October you said you would make alliances with the devil and would accept aid from Cuba to face an alleged invasion threat from Venezuela.

[Burnham] Yes, in response to a military threat from Venezuela.

[Pena] In Jamaica on 18 November you said: "To give Venezuela an outlet would mean to permit it to control the Eastern Caribbean and to give it an opening to an important oil area in coastal waters." I want to remind you that during the government of President Carlos Andres Perez there was talk about an outlet to the Atlantic as an alternative solution to the conflict. Recently, Foreign Minister Morales Paul told us: "Venezuela must secure a portion of land and waters in an eventual arrangement with Guyana."

[Burnham] We can discuss that. However, having access to the Caribbean is very different from owning the land that supplies that access.

[Pena] We are speaking of an arrangement that would include a port on the Atlantic and a portion of land.

[Burnham] This is a subject we can discuss, but I cannot anticipate the subjects that will be considered.

[Pena] It appears that your aggressive declarations against Venezuela have waned.

[Burnham] We do not have to be aggressive because we possess Essequibo on the basis of the 1899 arbitration.

[Pena] You visited the Soviet Union, but it looks as if your visit did not succeed in satisfying the economic expectations you had for it.

[Burnham] I don't visit other countries seeking capital; I only discuss the strengthening of commercial relations and adequate prices for our products. I remember that when I visited Venezuela some years ago, the ambassador of that country to Guyana said that he was expecting me to visit Venezuela with an economic team to look for financial assistance. However, that is not Guyana's attitude. We have many resources and are interested in profitable trade for both partners. We now have a joint project with Yugoslavia to develop some areas in Mazaruni. We are doing the same thing in the eastern part of the country, but with the Koreans.

[Pena] What were the results of your trip to Moscow?

[Burnham] I got results. The Soviets are buying more bauxite, we are trading, and we obtained equipment, vehicles, and machinery. We have signed contracts with reasonable deadlines for the purchase of civilian airplanes. We will pay with bauxite.

[Pena] Have you continued granting concessions to multinational companies in the Essequibo area?

[Burnham] That depends only on the proposals we receive and on the terms of the contracts. A Canadian company, in conjunction with Guyana, obtained a concession to exploit gold. We are holding talks with a U.S. company, which once was Canadian, on the exploration and exploitation of oil in the Rupununi region. The French have been involved in the search for uranium in the Essequibo region, which represents two-thirds of the country.

[Pena] You have been in power for over 20 years. You have been this country's prime minister and president. In confronting Cheddi Jagan you adopted an anticommunist stand. After you rose to power, you drew closer to Cuba and Moscow.

[Burnham] I have never been an anticommunist. I have never been nor will I ever be a communist, if being a communist means obeying orders from Moscow or automatically supporting its international policies. I have always maintained that I am a socialist and a Marxist in the sense that I accept Marx' tactical arguments.

[Pena] You rose to power with the blessings of Washington and London. Afterward, you drew closer to Moscow and Havana.

[Burnham] It was not really drawing closer. We established diplomatic and trade relations with socialist countries. The United States also has relations with the Soviet Union. However, some sectors in the United States believe that the small countries do not have the right to make sovereign decisions. Guyana is trying to expand its trade. We have purchased products manufactured in Poland from the United States. Why cannot we purchase the articles directly, at a lower price, from Poland? We are independent, we can sell to and buy from socialist countries without abandoning our traditional Western ties.

[Pena] When are the elections going to be held?

[Burnham] On 31 March 1986 at the latest.

[Pena] Will you run for reelection?

[Burnham] What do you think?

[Pena] From what you have said I think you will run again.

[Burnham] It is obvious.

[Pena] It is obvious that you do not want to give up power.

[Burnham] Not yet.

[Pena] Do you like power a lot?

[Burnham] No, I like what it represents.

[Pena] If the opposition competes under equal conditions and has all guarantees without any advantage for the government, aren't you afraid of losing?

[Burnham] In boxing and politics there is always the possibility of losing. In all the elections, the opposition has had full guarantees and freedoms. We have given Jagan more time on the radio than he gave us when he was in power.

[Pena] You have said that Guyana is not Grenada. Are you afraid that the Reagan administration will invade your country?

[Burnham] What has happened once can happen again. No one thought that at the end of the 20th century, force would be used in such an unjustified manner, as was the case with the invasion to Grenada. Grenada's crime was to have chosen a different path for its economic development. A small island, with a population of less than 100,000 inhabitants, cannot be considered a threat. Even Venezuela did not believe that. The British who were building the airport, which was reportedly going to be for military purposes, said after the invasion that they did not find anything to substantiate that belief.

[Pena] What solution do you see to the Central American crisis? The Contadora Group has tried a peaceful solution and has criticized the U.S. plans for a military invasion.

[Burnham] I do not know the solution. Nicaragua is no threat to U.S. security. The Sandinist government is fighting the counterrevolutionaries, some of whom have their bases in Costa Rica and El Salvador. It is an internal problem of Nicaragua, but if the Sandinists can eliminate the counterrevolutionaries, so much the better. I think that in its proposals, the Contadora Group should demand the departure of all foreign soldiers. Ortega has said, and we admire this, that he is willing to dismiss the Cuban advisers.

[Pena] A few months ago I interviewed President Jose Napoleon Duarte in San Salvador. He told me that there were some 8,000 Cuban military advisers in Nicaragua and that there were only 52 U.S. military advisers in El Salvador. He said that Nicaragua was engaged in an intense arms race.

[Burnham] Virginia Prewitt, who writes for THE WASHINGTON TIMES, has said that there are 15,000 Cuban soldiers working in Guyana. She says that we have a battalion of 20,000 men, comprised of Cubans and Guyanese.

[Pena] How many Cubans are here?

[Burnham] If we have 100 Cubans that is a lot; most are doctors and technicians. But this woman says we have a 20,000-man battalion, with tanks, Soviet planes, and airfields. Let us say that Duarte was right; then he would have to prove that Nicaragua is going to invade El Salvador. I have good reason to believe that Ortega has no interest in intervening in that country. Ortega has enough problems of his own. He has not been able to harvest the country's coffee and store its fish. Nicaragua does not even have containers [vasijas]; we are trying to sell it some. This will be done through an exchange because Nicaragua does not have money to pay. Meanwhile, the most powerful nation in the world is openly supporting the counterrevolution. Is Nicaragua not justified in arming itself?

[Pena] Washington says that Nicaragua is a sanctuary for the Salvadoran guerrillas.

[Burnham] If such was the case, Ortega would not be doing the right thing. I have noticed that you quote Washington as if it always tells the truth. Not everything Washington says is true.

[Pena] These are the official statements from the White House.

[Burnham] Let us not forget the Gulf of Tonkin incident which caused the Vietnam war. President Johnson lied.

[Pena] Are you implying that President Reagan is lying?

[Burnham] I think that he is poorly informed. I would never deliberately say that a president is lying.

[Pena] The truth is that the superpowers are involved in Central America.

[Burnham] That is the real situation. My problem is to govern Guyana. I sympathize with Nicaragua, but this does not extend to arms or nuclear missiles. Which came first, the purchase of arms by Nicaragua or the threat of invasion by the United States?

[Pena] At first Nicaragua had the solidarity of all the democratic countries of America. The idea was to replace the Somoza dictatorial and criminal regime with a democratic government.

[Burnham] They held elections and they won. What else do you want?

[Pena] The elections have been seriously questioned.

[Burnham] A qualified mission of the British Parliament said that the elections were honest. The fear of alleged Nicaraguan expansionism is no reason to support those promoting a civil war in that country. The suspicion that Nicaragua could be expansionist is no reason for the United States to mine its ports, mobilize its fleet, and support the counterrevolution. From a tactical and strategic viewpoint, the USSR cannot get involved in a large-scale fashion in Nicaragua.

[Pena] What about Cuba?

[Burnham] In September I talked to Fidel. He is afraid. He is apprehensive. The last thing Fidel wants is a war in Central America. That is why I do not understand why there is all the fuss. Fidel intervened in the case of the Nicaraguan soldier who took refuge in the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua and enabled him to leave the country. Fidel has not assumed a militaristic attitude. He is thinking about his own security in Guantanamo and about how near the coasts of Florida are. Fidel is concerned about his economy because he wants to give his people a better life. He is thinking about his own defense and not about waging a war abroad.

[Pena] Fidel probably has the same fear as you do, when you said that Guyana is not Grenada.

[Burnham] Yes; that is why I understand his situation.

[Pena] What role do you allow Cuba in the Caribbean and in Latin America?

[Burnham] In my recent talks with Fidel Castro, I got the impression that he would like to rejoin the Latin America and Caribbean communities. I am convinced that he has no interest in adventures. We have a lot to learn from Cuba. Its achievements in the fields of health, education, and secondary industry are outstanding and well known. The world admits that Cuba is at the vanguard in medicine and in sciences. When one visits Cuba one does not see many consumer goods, but you do not see anyone who is undernourished. The basic foods, milk and such, are available to all. Our relations with Cuba are good. We have established cooperation on an equal basis.

[Pena] It has been said that you allowed the Cuban planes transporting troops to Angola to make a stop at Guyana's airports.

[Burnham] That is not true. We support the cause of Angola, but we have never allowed, nor have we been asked to allow military planes to stop on their way to Angola. The Americans, who have a very modern satellite system, would have detected this and would have reported it. They never accused us because it was not true. Not even Kissinger, usually so arrogant, could accuse us of that.

[Pena] Would you honestly say that it never occurred?

[Burnham] I do not know when it could have occurred. There is only one airport in the country, the Thimeri Airport, which can handle big planes. No plane with troops for Angola or from Angola has landed there.

BRIEFS

PRC AMBASSADOR -- Georgetown, Guyana, March 19, CANA -- A new Chinese ambassador to Guyana, Ni Zhengjian, has been appointed to succeed Yang Mai who has ended his tour of duty here, an official statement said. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1919 GMT 19 Mar 85 FL]